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OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 10, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

AAR Will Not Seek Increase. The Association of American Railroads (AAR) will not ask the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) for an inflation cost-recovery rate increase for the second quarter of 1986. The AAR told the ICC that the rail industry projects a 4.3 percent reduction in overall operating costs for the 1986 second quarter compared with the first 3 months of 1986. The AAR estimates the second quarter fuel price level will drop nearly 50 percent from its forecast for the first quarter of 1986. The rail industry was granted a nationwide inflation-based rate increase last December, when a 1.1 percent rate increase was approved to take effect January 1.

APR 2 4 1986

Welland Canal Toll Increase. The St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) has decided "with great reluctance" not to oppose a 15 percent toll increase proposed by Canadian officials for the Welland Canal. SLSDC said it came to that decision because of the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Authority's documented need for additional revenue. Canadian officials maintain the $4 million raised by increasing the toll is needed to cut a projected $20 million deficit. The Canadian Authority has already depleted its reserves by about $20 million and is mandated under Canadian law to operate on a self sufficient basis. The 15 percent increase will increase systemwide tolls by 6 percent and all additional revenue will go to the Canadian Authority, which owns and operates the Welland Canal.

Surplus Rail Cars. The ICC is proposing to exempt from regulation the industry-wide storage leasing of all types of surplus rail equipment. The proposal would expand a 1983 ruling which allowed the Norfolk & Western Railway to lease to shippers, for storage purposes only, its surplus covered hopper cars. The ICC said expanding the exemption would help railroads earn adequate revenues by leasing unproductive assets and would also encourage innovative and efficient management.

U.S. Gulf Grain Rates. Rates to move grain from the Gulf to Japan for late March delivery eased in recent weeks. Panamax-size vessels are reporting $10 per metric ton, down from $13 for February movements. The decline in rates has dampened optimism ship owners had with the increased activity in the River Plate (Argentina) grain sector where shippers were taking up tonnage and quoting additional cargoes.

Jumbo Hopper Cars Still Surplus. According to the AAR, Granger Railroads continue to report large surpluses of jumbo covered hopper cars. For the week ending December 27, surplus jumbo covered hoppers were reported at 8,989 cars. At the same time last year the surplus hit 15,750 cars, nearly 6,800 more than the present number.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 6 tows with 72 barges have passed upbound and 10 tows with 106 barges downbound. This morning there are no tows waiting upbound or downbound. At the Gulf on Thursday, 1,098 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,021. At the Gulf, in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 14 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded, while 4 waited.

A 108.12:

U.S. Soybeans and Products Supply and Use (Domestic Measure) 1/

Item	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86 Projections		
		Prelim.	January	February	Prob. Var. 2/
SOYBEANS					
Area		Million acres			
Planted	63.8	67.8	63.2	63.1	
Harvested	62.5	66.1	62.2	61.6	
Yield per harv. unit	26.2	Bushels/acre 28.1	34.2	34.1	
		Million bushels			
Beginning stocks	345	176	318	316	
Production	1,636	1,861	2,129	2,099	
Supply, total	1,981	2,037	2,447	2,415	
Crushings	983	1,030	1,070	1,060	+/- 20
Exports	743	598	710	750	+/- 40
Seed and feed	66	61	60	60	
Residual	13	32	27	25	
Use, total	1,805	1,721	1,867	1,895	+/- 50
Ending stocks	176	316	580	520	+/- 50
Avg. farm price ($/bu)	7.81	5.85	5.05-5.35	5.05-5.35	
SOYBEAN OIL:		Million pounds			
Beginning stocks	1,261	721	632	632	
Production	10,872	11,468	11,663	11,723 3/	+/- 220
Imports	0	20	10	10	
Supply, total	12,133	12,209	12,305	12,365	+/- 220
Domestic	9,588	9,917	9,850	9,900	+/- 100
Exports	1,824	1,660	1,450	1,350	+/- 150
Use, total	11,412	11,569	11,300	11,250	+/- 125
Ending stocks	721	632	1,005	1,115	+/- 100
Avg. price 4/	30.6	29.5	19.0-23.0	18.0-22.0	
SOYBEAN MEAL:		Thousand short tons			
Beginning stocks	474	255	387	387	
Production	22,756	24,529	25,313	25,133 3/	+/- 475
Supply, total	23,230	24,784	25,700	25,520	+/- 475
Domestic	17,615	19,480	19,700	19,500	+/- 250
Exports	5,360	4,917	5,600	5,600	+/- 300
Use, total	22,977	24,397	25,300	25,100	+/- 300
Ending stocks	255	387	400	420	+/- 75
Avg. price 5/	188.20	125.40	125-155	125-155	

1/ Marketing year beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soybean oil and meal. 2/ Final outcome expected to fall within the implied range 2 out of every 3 times. 3/ Based on October year crush of 1065 million bushels. 4/ Simple average of crude soybean oil, Decatur, cents per pound. 5/ Simple average of 44 percent protein, Decatur, dollars per short ton.

SOURCE: USDA-FAS-ERS, World Ag. Supply & Demand
February 10, 1986

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 10, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Feb 8	24,598	23,561
Feb 15	23,174	24,275
Feb 22	20,631	21,965
Mar 1	21,300	24,241
Calendar Year to Date	214,225	217,274
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 9	24,013	28,120
Feb 16	21,196	29,098
Feb 23	19,275	27,697
Mar 2	19,837	24,144
Calendar Year to Date	232,258	290,895
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 6	86,622	72,301
Feb 13	69,156	91,738
Feb 20	70,574*	93,382
Feb 27	72,791	86,193
Calendar Year to Date	605,583	731,675

*Revised

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES
($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Jan 24	3.27	2.50	5.35	3.73	2.79	6.02
Jan 31	3.27	2.50	5.34	3.73	2.80	6.09
Feb 7	3.25	2.50	5.28	3.78	2.82	6.03
Feb 14	3.31	2.50	5.33	3.75	2.79	5.85
Feb 21	3.33	2.48	5.26	3.71	2.78	5.84

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

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MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Jan	30	4,621	6,345	4,810	4,994	7,744	3,208
Feb	6	4,718	5,689	4,841	4,723	8,997	3,054
Feb	13	4,578	5,286	4,764	4,170	8,560	3,075
Feb	20	4,410	4,909	4,404	3,871	7,881	2,848
Feb	27	4,398	4,210	4,309	3,548	7,809	2,648

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Feb	7	33	49	60	41	61	82
Feb	14	38	43	65	40	62	86
Feb	21	27	54	60	38	56	74
Feb	28	33	47	55	34	53	79
Mar	7	34	52	60	40	50	74

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Nov	1	4.6	123.4	115.6	7.5	122.3	113.8
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$14.25-$10.00(30M-52M)	Mar-Apr
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$8.00-$6.00(25M-60M)	March
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.00-$8.25(26M-55M)	March
Gulf	Egypt	$16.00(25M)	March
Gulf	Morocco	$8.00(30M)	March
Gulf	Taiwan	$18.25-$11.50(33M-54M)	March
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$17.50(15M-22M)	Mar-May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Gulf	South Korea	$10.30(49.5M-52.5M)	March

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

986/11

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 17, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Antimonopoly Bill Reports to the House. The House Judiciary Subcommittee recently voted 12 to 2 in favor of reporting the Rail Antimonopoly Bill (H.R. 1140) to the House. Representative John Seiberling, the author of the Bill, reported a proposal to lessen the treble damages and to eliminate the need of the plaintiff to show the railroads intent to monopolize on certain forms of traffic. The Bill calls for rail carriers to offer trackage rights to all other carriers in order for more than one railroad to serve a shipper/receiver. Representative James Florio has called for this Bill to come before the House Energy and Commerce Committee as well as before the full House Judiciary Committee.

A New Bidder. The United Transportation Union (UTU) (representative of most rail operating personnel) has suggested that the Norfolk Southern Corporation, CSX Corporation, and Union Pacific Corporation be allowed to purchase the Governments' 85 percent share of Conrail in equal shares. A spokesman of the UTU said,"the shares will be sold through a consortium of brokerage houses." The UTU's plan calls for the three carriers to have no voice in the operation of the railroad.

NIAGARA FALLS LIBRARY
APR 1 1986
U.S. DEPOSITORY

Elevator Sets Record. The Port of Mobile's public elevator has announced that January 1986, was the biggest month in its history when they handled 17.8 million tons of grain. Port officials credit the increase to a step-up in rail traffic coming into the port and recent improvements and expansion to the grain handling facility. The grain elevator has four systems that have the capability of handling 40,000 bushels an hour along with four rail dumps that can unload as many as 400 cars per day.

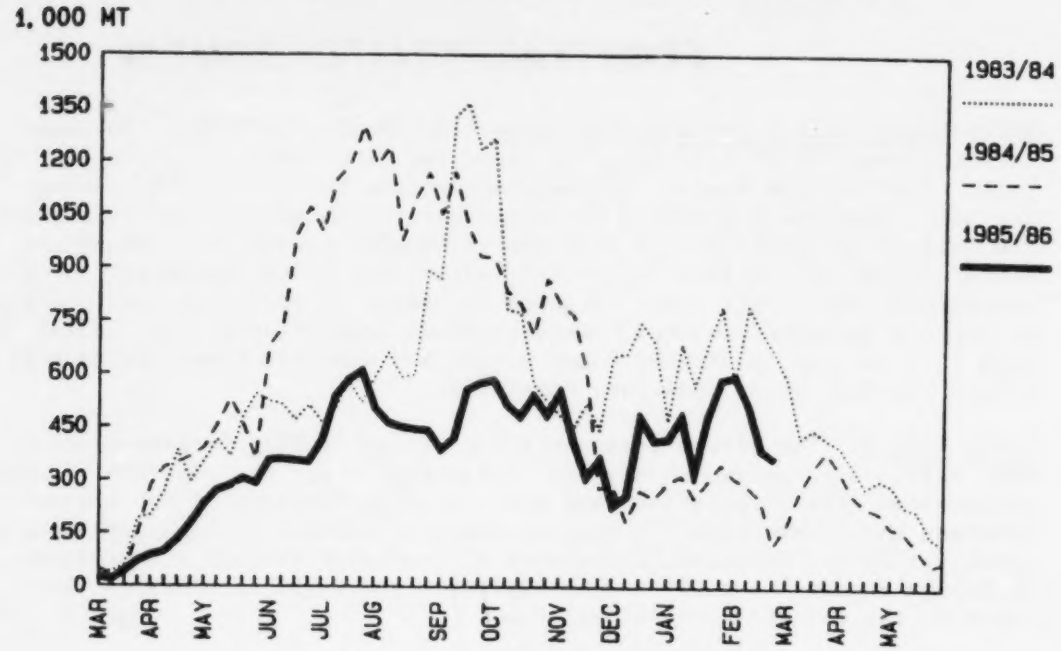
And Now There are Five. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has approved the nomination of Vice Chairman J.J. Simmons III and Commissioner Paul H. Lamboley to new terms on the ICC. The approval of these two gentlemen has filled the remaining vacant positions bringing the Commission to its full compliment of five commissioners.

Toll Hike Hurts Traffic. Officials of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority have recently cited that the declining traffic on the Seaway is partially due to the toll hikes on the Canadian run sections. In recent years the overall decline in steel, ore, and grain traffic, in addition to the series of accidents, have hampered the Seaway's operations. Officials further stated that even without the accidents, a toll increase would still be needed for their operation. U.S. officials have announced that tolls on the Canadian-operated Welland Canal will increase by 15 percent when the 1986 shipping season opens on April 3, 1986.

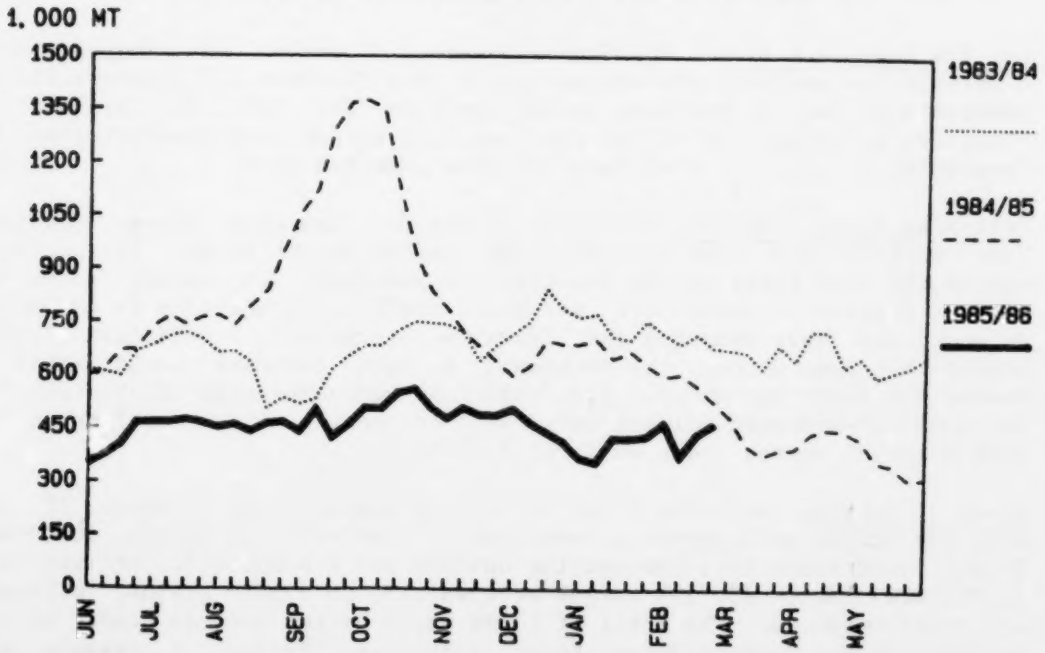
River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 12 tows with 109 barges have passed upbound and 11 tows with 103 barges downbound. This morning there is 1 tow waiting upbound and 2 downbound. At the Gulf on Thursday, March 13, 239 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and other products. The total of 1,296 empty barges were on hand. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 8 vessels were reported loading grain, while 16 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 7 vessels were at berth being loaded, while 11 waited.

A 108.12:

WHEAT SALES
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



WHEAT EXPORTS
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



MARCH 5, 1986

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/USDA

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 17, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Feb 15	23,174	24,275
Feb 22	20,631	21,965
Mar 1	21,300	24,241
Mar 8	21,690	22,246
Calendar Year to Date	235,915	239,520
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 16	21,196	29,098
Feb 23	19,275	27,697
Mar 2	19,837	24,144
Mar 9	18,768	22,705
Calendar Year to Date	251,026	313,600
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 13	69,156	91,738
Feb 20	70,574*	93,382
Feb 27	72,791	86,193
Mar 6	76,291	69,187
Calendar Year to Date	681,874	800,862

*Revised

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Jan 31	3.27	2.50	5.34	3.73	2.80	6.09
Feb 7	3.25	2.50	5.28	3.78	2.82	6.03
Feb 14	3.31	2.50	5.33	3.75	2.79	5.85
Feb 21	3.33	2.48	5.26	3.71	2.78	5.84
Feb 28	3.32	2.44	5.29	3.68	2.76	5.71

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Feb	6	4,718	5,689	4,841	4,723	8,997	3,054
Feb	13	4,578	5,286	4,764	4,170	8,560	3,075
Feb	20	4,410	4,909	4,404	3,871	7,881	2,848
Feb	27	4,398	4,210	4,309	3,548	7,809	2,648
Mar	6	4,744	3,821	4,349	3,573	7,569	2,471

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Feb	14	38	43	65	40	62	86
Feb	21	27	54	60	38	56	74
Feb	28	33	47	55	34	53	79
Mar	7	34	52	60	40	50	74
Mar	14	34	44	50	37	57	79

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Nov	1	4.6	123.4	115.6	7.5	122.3	113.8
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$14.25-$10.00(30M-52M)	Mar-Apr
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$8.00-$5.78(25M-60M)	Mar-Apr
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.00-$8.25(26M-52M)	March
Gulf	Egypt	$16.00(25M)	March
Gulf	Morocco	$8.00(30M)	March
Gulf	Taiwan	$18.25-$16.30(33M)	March
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00(15M-18M)	Mar-May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Gulf	South Korea	$12.30(50M)	March
Gulf	Morocco	$10.00(20M)	March
Pacific Northwest	Taiwan	$12.25(33M)	Mar-Apr

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

986/12

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 24, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Non-Union Labor Handles Most Gulf Grain. Non-union stevedores handle most of the bulk grain export shipments out of the lower Mississippi. The non-union hourly per gang cost is approximately one-third the cost of those companies using union labor. A spokesperson for the New Orleans Steamship Association said man-hours for members of the International Longshoremen's Union dropped from 5.4 million in the 1980-81 fiscal year to an estimated 1.8 million this fiscal year. The Port of Mobile has also experienced a drop in the use of union stevedores from 1.2 million in 1980 to an estimated 400,000 this year.

Waterway Development Bill. A multibillion dollar port and inland waterway development bill (S.1567) has been held up in the Senate due to a proposed amendment. Senator Robert C. Byrd (WVA) would like to amend the bill by providing for 100 percent Federal funding for a flood control project in West Virginia. West Virginia has been hard hit by recent heavy rains causing extensive flooding. Sponsors of the bill have resisted because the amendment runs counter to the cost-sharing philosophy of the Administration. Sponsors feel that if an exception is made for the West Virginia project, other interests will also seek special treatment thus effectively killing the support the bill has with the Administration. A final vote is expected sometime this week.

U.S. Farmers Expected to Reduce 1986 Crop Planting. Farmers are expected to cut back on their 1986 crop plantings, according to the USDA's Crop Reporting Board. This year's corn plantings could total 78.1 million acres, a 6 percent reduction from the 1985 record year. With huge stockpiles and depressed prices corn planting is expected to hit a 12-year low.

ILA, Great Lakes Break Off Talks. Talks between representatives for the Great Lakes Association of Stevedores (GLAS) and the International Longshoremen's (ILA) Union have stalled after the ILA refused to grant any immediate concessions. Management is seeking a wage freeze, a separate wage scale for non-maritime work, more flexible work rules, and tougher restrictions on overtime. GLAS said it would refuse an ILA offer to meet on March 24 in Tampa if immediate concessions were not granted. They said concessions were needed if the Lakes were to remain competitive with the Gulf Ports who are presently using a lot of non-union labor.

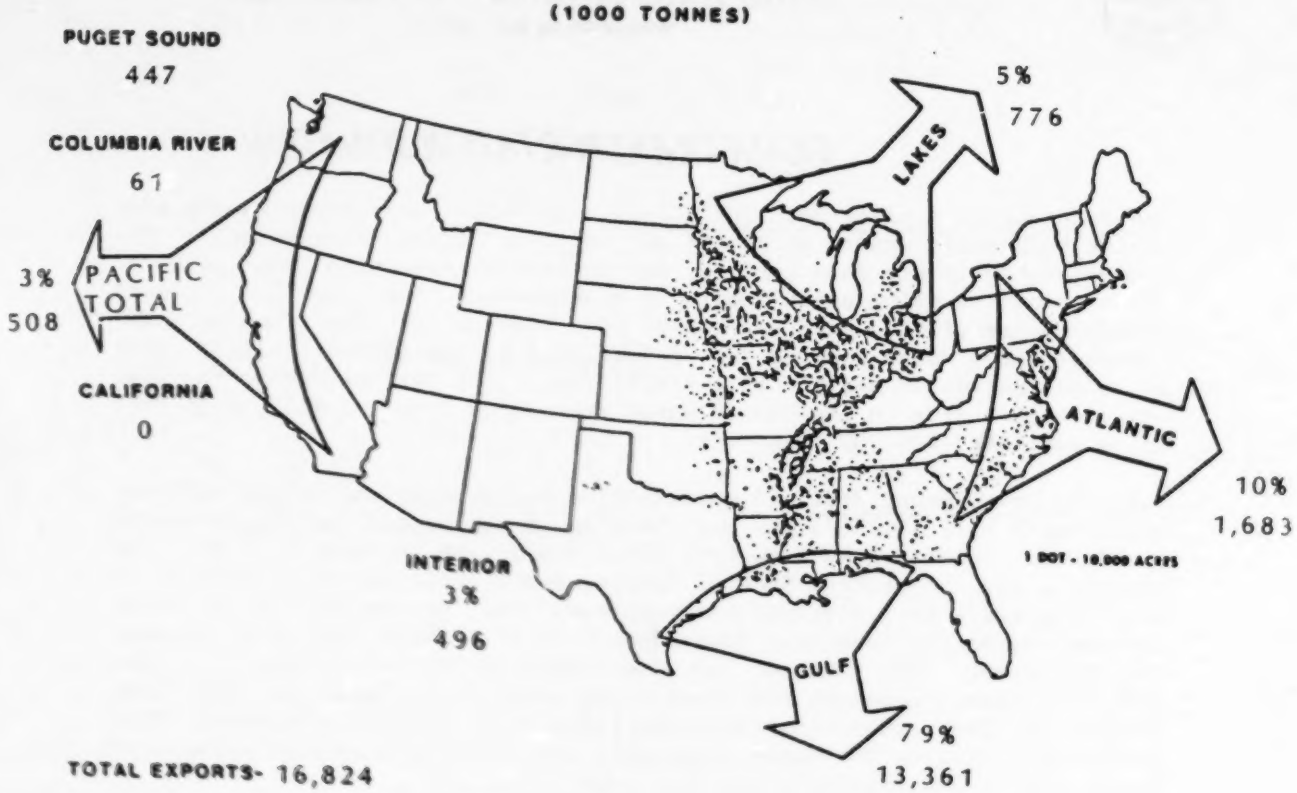
Ohio River Lock Damaged. The Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington, West Virginia, said crews are working to fix the gate on the Gallipolis Locks that were damaged when an upbound towboat struck the Lock last Monday. Repairs on a hinge mechanism on the 100-ton gate are expected to be completed on Thursday.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 8 tows with 48 barges have passed upbound and 6 tows with 73 barges downbound. This morning there are 2 tows waiting upbound and none down. At the Gulf on Thursday, 898 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,018. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 7 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded while 5 waited.

A 108.12:

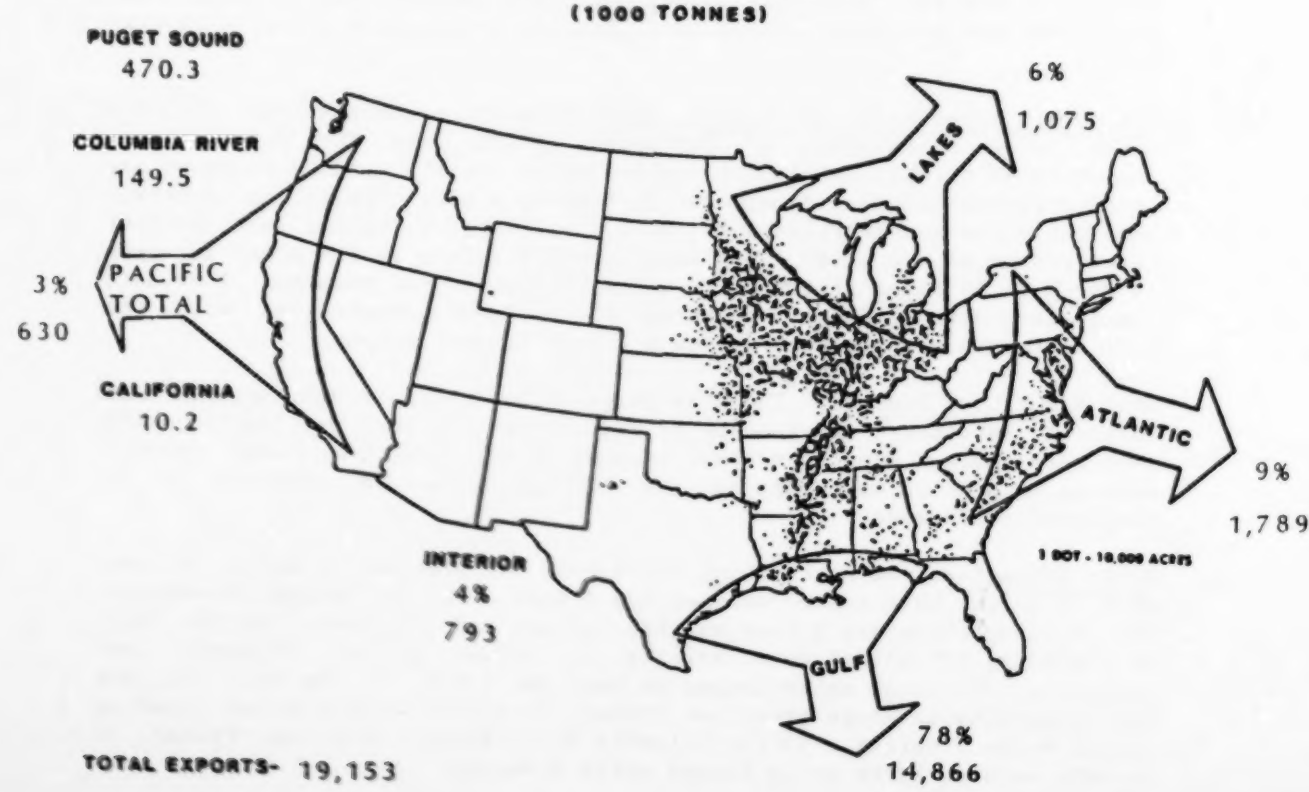
SOYBEAN EXPORTS BY PORT AREA, 1985

(1000 TONNES)



SOYBEAN EXPORTS BY PORT AREA, 1984

(1000 TONNES)



OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 24, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Feb 22	20,631	21,965
Mar 1	21,300	24,241
Mar 8	21,690	22,246
Mar 15	21,900	24,836
Calendar Year to Date	257,815	264,356
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 23	19,275	27,697
Mar 2	19,837	24,144
Mar 9	18,768	22,705
Mar 16	21,629	32,866
Calendar Year to Date	272,655	346,466
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 20	70,574*	93,382
Feb 27	72,791	86,193
Mar 6	76,291	69,187
Mar 13	57,647	68,063
Calendar Year to Date	739,521	868,925

*Revised

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Feb 7	3.25	2.50	5.28	3.78	2.82	6.03
Feb 14	3.31	2.50	5.33	3.75	2.79	5.85
Feb 21	3.33	2.48	5.26	3.71	2.78	5.84
Feb 28	3.32	2.44	5.29	3.68	2.76	5.71
Mar 7	3.37	2.38	5.35	3.67	2.82	5.79

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Feb	13	4,578	5,286	4,764	4,170	8,560	3,075
Feb	20	4,410	4,909	4,404	3,871	7,881	2,848
Feb	27	4,398	4,210	4,309	3,548	7,809	2,648
Mar	6	4,744	3,821	4,349	3,573	7,569	2,471
Mar	13	4,708	3,539	4,032	3,688	7,908	2,364

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Feb	21	27	54	60	38	56	74
Feb	28	33	47	55	34	53	79
Mar	7	34	52	60	40	50	74
Mar	14	34	44	50	37	57	79
Mar	21	36	39	46	45	49	86

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Nov	1	4.6	123.4	115.6	7.5	122.3	113.8
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$13.40-$10.00(32M-53M)	Mar-Apr
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$8.00-$6.00(25M-75M)	Mar-Apr
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.00-$8.25(26M-52M)	March
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00(15M-18M)	Apr-May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Taiwan	$12.35-$11.75(26M-33M)	Mar-Apr
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$17.50(18M)	April
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	$6.00(20M)	April

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

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OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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March 31, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Seaway Season Set to Start. The 1986 shipping season on the St. Lawrence Seaway is scheduled to begin April 3 at 8:00 a.m. on the Montreal-Lake Ontario and Welland Canal sections. Vessel transits will be subject to weather and ice conditions. Navigation will be limited to daylight hours, in some areas, until lighted navigation aids have been installed. The Canadian Sault Ste. Marie Canal will open to navigation at 7:00 a.m. on April 14, while the U.S. Soo Locks are to open April 1 at midnight. The sharp downturn of 30 percent in grain traffic, especially Canadian grain, was the main factor that brought overall traffic in the 1985 navigation season to its lowest level since the early 1960's. Great Lakes shipping interests do not anticipate a major turnaround this year. Great Lakes carriers are concerned over the possible impact of the toll increase of 15 percent to be implemented on the Welland Canal.

Proposed Deregulation of Demurrage. The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) has received mixed comments on its proposal to deregulate demurrage. Demurrage charges are assessed against the shipper or receiver for undue detention of rail equipment and are presently regulated by the ICC. Among the participants commenting on this issue, the Association of American Railroads stated they were in favor of deregulation while the National Industrial Transportation League has argued against deregulation. OT filed comments in favor of the Commission retaining it's power to regulate demurrage.

Harvest Begins With Tight Grain Storage. Oklahoma grain storage facilities will overflow when harvest begins. Texas and Kansas are also experiencing an extremely tight storage situation. The carryover stocks of grain are larger and, this, along with the slack demand for wheat exports, will make producers use every avenue at their disposal to store or move grain. In Texas about 65 percent of the 430 million bushel capacity is full.

Soybean Planting to Increase. Actual planted acreage of soybeans could increase as much as 3 percent this year, while corn planting could fall by nearly 5 percent. The USDA analysts said soybean acreage is likely to rise as farmers elect to plant soybeans on those optional acres not entered in the corn program.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 13 tows with 135 barges have passed upbound and 8 tows with 75 barges downbound. This morning there is 1 tow waiting upbound and 1 down. At the Gulf on Thursday, 763 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,335. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 11 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded while 6 waited.

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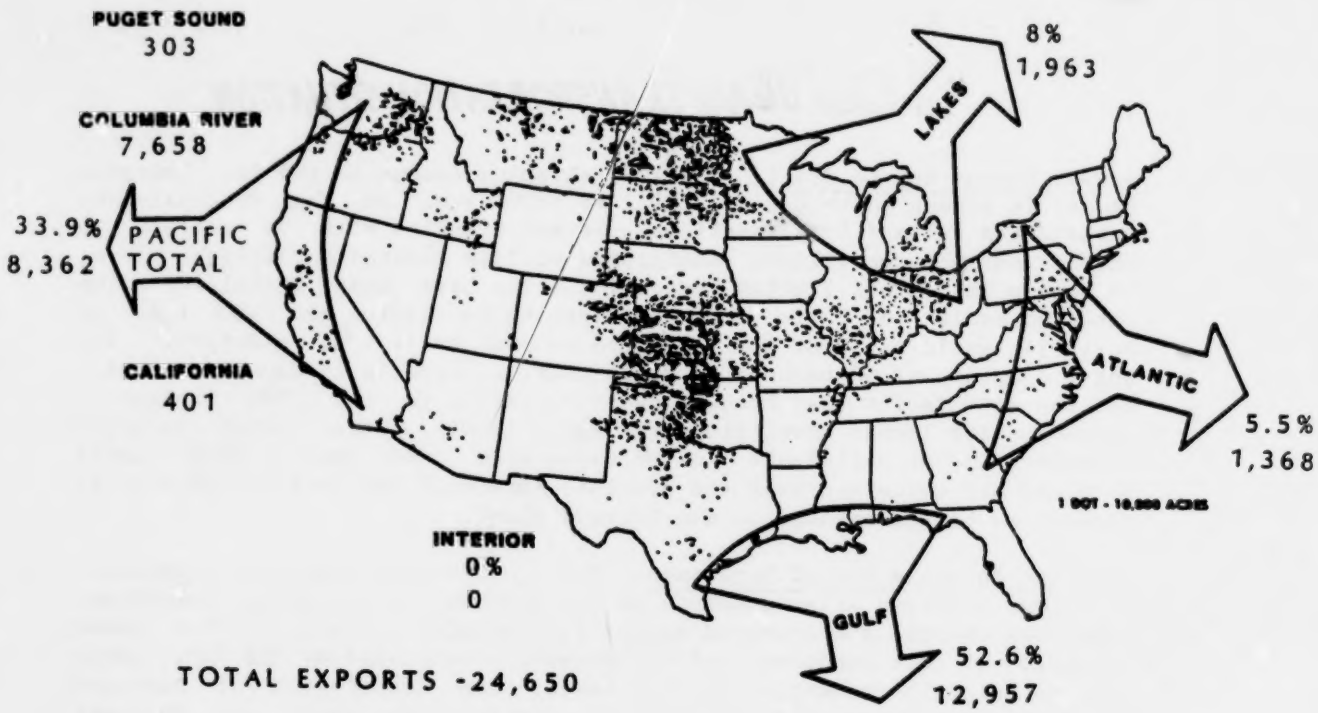
WHEAT EXPORTS BY PORT AREA, 1985

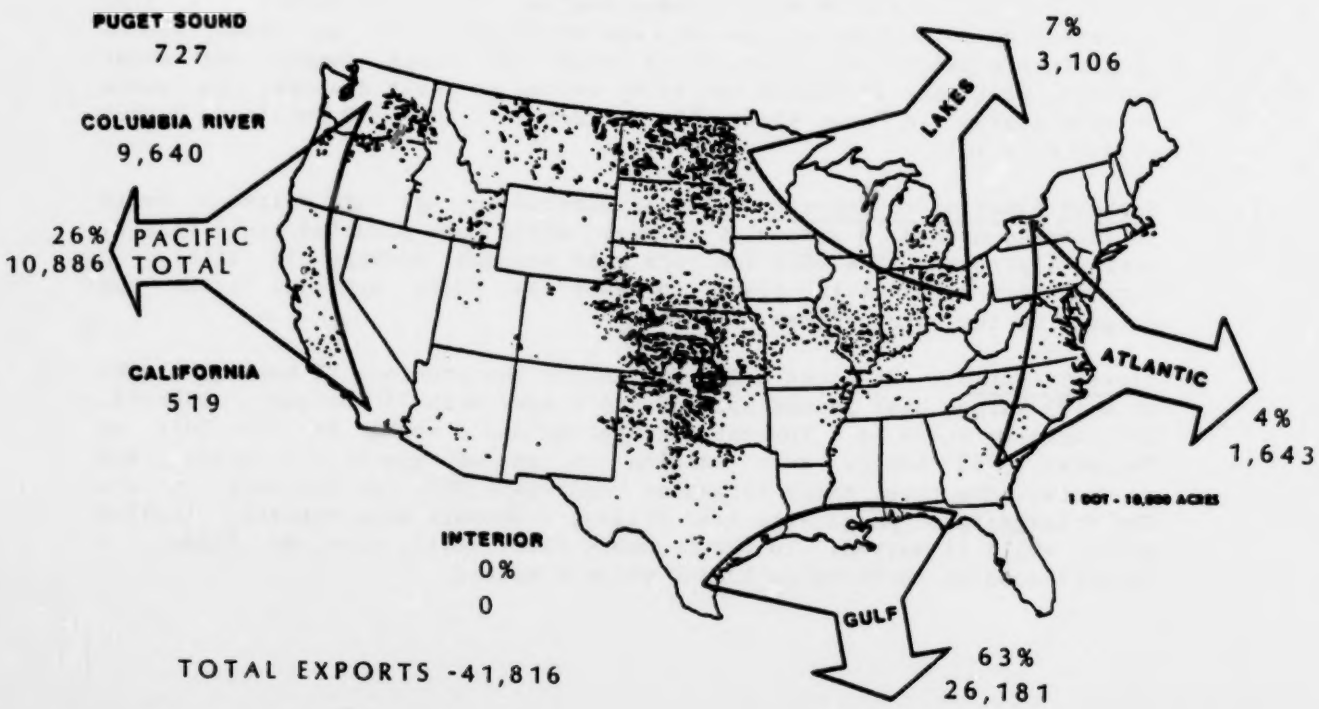
(1000 TONNES)



TOTAL EXPORTS -24,650

WHEAT EXPORTS BY PORT AREA, 1984

(1000 TONNES)



TOTAL EXPORTS -41,816

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 31, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Mar 1	21,300	24,241
Mar 8	21,690	22,246
Mar 15	21,900	24,836
Mar 22	20,596	23,166
Calendar Year to Date	278,411	287,522
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 2	19,837	24,144
Mar 9	18,768	22,705
Mar 16	21,629	32,866
Mar 23	21,255	40,345
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	386,811
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Feb 27	72,791	86,193
Mar 6	76,291	69,187
Mar 13	57,647	68,063
Mar 20	62,956	74,454
Calendar Year to Date	802,477	943,379

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES
($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Feb 14	3.31	2.50	5.33	3.75	2.79	5.85
Feb 21	3.33	2.48	5.26	3.71	2.78	5.84
Feb 28	3.32	2.44	5.29	3.68	2.76	5.71
Mar 7	3.37	2.38	5.35	3.67	2.82	5.79
Mar 14	3.34	2.44	5.39	3.65	2.85	5.87

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Feb	20	4,410	4,909	4,404	3,871	7,881	2,848
Feb	27	4,398	4,210	4,309	3,548	7,809	2,648
Mar	6	4,744	3,821	4,349	3,573	7,569	2,471
Mar	13	4,708	3,539	4,032	3,688	7,908	2,364
Mar	20	4,469	3,105	3,762	3,878	8,375	2,374

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Feb	28	33	47	55	34	53	79
Mar	7	34	52	60	40	50	74
Mar	14	34	44	50	37	57	79
Mar	21	36	39	46	45	49	86
Mar	28	30	44	40	37	54	67

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Nov	1	4.6	123.4	115.6	7.5	122.3	113.8
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$10.65-$10.00(32M-53M)	April
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.25-$6.00(55M-75M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.25(18.9M)	April
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$20.00(15M-18.7M)	Apr-May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Taiwan	$12.25-$11.75(26M-33M)	April
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$17.50(18M)	April
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	$6.00(20M)	April
Gulf	Venezuela	$6.50(22.5M)	April
Great Lakes	Portugal	$8.50(27.5M)	April

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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